



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
UNITED STATES SECTION

February 15, 2012

Scott Recinos, P.E., Project Manager
Customs and Border Protection
1301 Constitution Avenue NW
West Building, B-155
Washington, DC 20299

Dear Mr. Recinos:

The U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission has completed its review of the Drainage Report dated August 2011, and associated two-dimensional hydraulic models prepared by Michael Baker, Jr. Inc., on behalf of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), for the erection of approximately 6.93 miles of security fence within the limits of the Rio Grande floodplain in Roma, Texas (Segment O-1, 1.81 miles), Rio Grande City, Texas (Segment O-2, 3.43 miles), and Los Ebanos, Texas (Segment O-3, 1.69 miles). After an in depth and thorough review, the USIBWC has concluded that the proposed fence project(s) will not cause significant deflection or obstruction of the normal or flood flows of the Rio Grande and is, therefore, consistent with the stipulations in Article IV-B of the 1970 Boundary Treaty. With this in mind, the USIBWC has no objection to the erection of the fence segments within the limits of the Rio Grande floodplain, provided that the fence closely follows the proposed alignment and standard design details (6 inch bollards installed at 45° with 4 inches of clear spacing between the bollards) described in the respective Drainage Report. The USIBWC hereby requests that the DHS comply with the following conditions:

1. Implement a maintenance program to remove any trash and/or debris found along the alignment of each fence including the approaches to the fence on a regular basis, especially after a storm event.
2. To the USIBWC's satisfaction, provide any future repair along the adjacent banks pertinent to the fence segments mentioned above, should any damage occur.

It should be noted that the USIBWC did not review these fence projects for any potential environmental impacts since they are covered by the Environmental Waiver obtained by DHS in April 2008. If you have any questions, please contact me at (915) 832-4749 or via email at John.Merino@ibwc.gov.

Sincerely,

John L. Merino, P.E.
Principal Engineer